

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORTCOUNTRY **USSR**DATE DISTR. **26 Aug 1954**SUBJECT **Induction into the Soviet Army/ Issue of Clothes and Equipment/Field Training and Practices** NO. OF PAGES **4**
25X1**25X1**PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
25X1 REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1**1.**

The Voyencomat notifies each male citizen on his 18th birthday to appear before it in the following spring or fall draft for examination and induction into the Army. [redacted]

[redacted] born of 1940. [redacted] reported to the Voyencomat and underwent a one-day examination before a commission consisting of a few doctors, political advisors, and military specialists. After the physical and political examinations, the military specialists assigned the candidates to the various branches of the military and indicated the dates on which they were to report for duty. The inductee surrendered (without receipt) all of his personal papers, including passport and birth certificate, at this time, and received a railroad ticket and convoy permit to the point of his assignment. [redacted]

25X1**25X1****25X1****25X1**

[redacted] reported for duty at the military school in Odessa. [redacted] given a superficial medical examination, [redacted] hair clipped, and was issued clothing after submitting to a general disinfection. [redacted] received a set of long-sleeved cotton underclothes, one green shirt and one pair of green pants, two pieces of cotton cloth for wrapping my feet in place of socks, a pair of boots with leather soles and creutz leggings, a leather belt, a gas mask, a cap, a steel helmet, a drawstring, duck pack, two duck cartridge belts with 100 bullets, a heavy woolen topcoat, and an

25X1**25X1****25X1****25X1**CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**

DISTRIBUTION

ARMY EV

25X1**25X1****25X1****25X1**

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

25X1

25X1

army kettle. (At the time of induction, one very seldom received the correct clothing size. Later on, after assignment to a camp, the master sergeant saw to it that clothing fit.)

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Each soldier carried in his pocket a capsule which contained a paper giving his name and home address.

2.

A soldier is required to take good care of his clothing and to make minor repairs. The green uniforms were issued in alternate years, the heavy overcoat once during military service, shoes once a year. Sheets are laundered and changed twice a month, underwear laundered and changed once a week. A soldier is also issued two metal containers, filled respectively with oil for oiling his rifle and a chemical for removing rust, and received periodic supplies for these containers.

A Soviet soldier knows from his daily experience which grasses, berries, roots, mushrooms are edible and this knowledge is utilized in some of his field training. During certain summer maneuvers, special three-day rations are issued. This package contains two lbs of dry bread, two 1/2-lb packages of grits, 100 grams of sugar (not well packaged), two lbs of dried fish or sardines, two lbs of soup concentrate and one lb of canned beef. Soldiers are usually fed, however, from field kitchens while on maneuver. Since a Soviet soldier receives no pay, he is given each month a certain amount of pocket money, ranging from 8.5 rubles to 24 rubles for a sergeant. Sometimes tobacco is distributed in varying amounts according to the soldier's rank.

3.

25X1

25X1

No special summer clothing is issued during parachute training. An especially warm coat with fur collar or hood was used during the winter. Some of these coats were fur-lined, others cotton-lined. Quilted trousers with cotton inner linings were worn over the standard-issue green uniform. Parkas with fur ear laps and chin straps were also used. A parachutist was issued a single-blade knife similar to a US hunting knife and usually a tommy-gun. Officers were given Tokaryev Tulski (TT) pistols. The soldier who was responsible for the machine gun assigned to the unit was given a TT pistol for his protection. Regular army boots were worn by parachutists, but a special type of woolen footwear, called valenki, was worn during the coldest weather. The insignia of the paratroop corps was the crossed wings and propellers and paratroop officers wore parachute insignia on the left sleeve.

Two types of parachutes were used in training and actual jump operations. They will be identified hereafter by their code letters, PD6 and PD41. PD6 has the following characteristics. It is a round, white silk parachute with a hole in the center, about 64 square meters, with a pull cord and draw parachute. Other features are similar to those of the parachutes used by the US Army. The hanging system is also similar to that found in US parachutes. As an emergency measure during World War II when silk was unavailable, PD41 was made of percale and strengthened by strips of the

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

same material. It was a four-angled parachute of approximately 70 square meters with one angle much larger than any other. The parachute was so designed for direction purposes. The parachutist faced the biggest angle and was blown in that direction. The PD41 was equipped with a pull cord for the parachutist to manipulate. In addition the PD41 had at its outside center a short cord tied to a 7 - 10 meter rope with metal hook attached. This device was used as the parachutist left the plane, the body weight breaking the short cord and causing the parachute to open.

Little stress was placed on cooking in the field. Reserve rations of soup concentrate, grits, and meat were supplied and the soldiers did their own cooking over the fire. Sometimes during very bad weather, mobile kitchens were in operation. Drinking water was taken usually from wells and streams in the maneuver area. Occasionally water was treated chemically for drinking purposes. During battle positions, field kitchens did issue drinking water. Bedding-down in the field was nothing more than lying down on the ground. In very cold areas, the soldiers collected pine needles and branches for bedding-down purposes. Each soldier was supplied with a triangular piece of heavy green canvas which could be used for cover or, when matched with another, as a tent.

4.

5.

the supply division of each army got its supplies from a central depot or directly from the factories and thereafter distributed them to the corps, division, regiment and battalion levels. Each regiment had a special supply officer with a finance officer and accountant under him. Each battalion had a supply platoon and the cognizant officer was accountable to the regimental supply officer. Norms were established for the number of months a pair of shoes must be worn, for example, and thus furnish a way of checking on supplies. Usually when new uniforms or supplies were issued, the old ones were turned in. Checks were also made when inventories were taken twice a year. Concerning major repairs, the soldier reported to the master sergeant and through him to the supply platoon officer and regiment supply officer. Repairs were usually made at this level, if not at the division repair shop.

6.

Burial procedures are the simplest in the USSR. Usually when a soldier is killed, one of his friends removes the identification capsule and all letters and personal papers before burying him on the battlefield. The person who buries the soldier is responsible for notifying either the master sergeant or the company commander and for turning over all documents belonging to the deceased. The company commander in turn sends all such company information and documents to the regimental officer who is responsible for notifying the next of kin but usually does not do it. In addition, each division has a special burial unit which is pressed into service during heavy fighting. The unit collects the bodies of the dead and buries them in mass graves, after removing all identification. Graves are not usually marked. If an officer is killed, however, his grave may sometimes be marked by a red plywood star. not aware of the existence of national cemeteries in the USSR.

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

7.

8.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

no first aid equipment other than a tourniquet. There is a medic or sanitar attached to each company. He has a few aspirins and medicine in his kit and is a bit better prepared to care for casualties requiring first aid. [] did not see any medical personnel in combat wearing Red Cross brassards. Red Cross signs are prominently displayed, however, on the tops of ambulances.

9

There were only three types of airplanes used - TB3, TB7, and PS84. The TB3 and TB7 are four-motor transports and each one can accommodate about 40 paratroopers. [] the load capacity of [] the heaviest type of equipment transported in these planes was the unassembled cannon or machine gun with ammunition. This was packed in a cotton sack and the various parts were intersticed with layers of protective cotton. Load parachutes were attached to the sacks. [] the weight of such a sack to be about 500 kilograms. Food and ammunition was also transported in this manner. The PS84 is a two-motor transport patterned after a Douglas passenger plane. It is lighter and can accommodate 20 paratroopers plus their equipment. Each paratrooper carried a week's supply of food, ammunition, weapons, and a change of underwear. [] did not use gliders at any time.

25X1

25X1

25X1 10

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

The Air Force was responsible for dropping heavy equipment. []

[] the heaviest equipment [] dropped were the sacks containing unassembled cannon. Sometimes when it was snowing heavily, this equipment or food packages could be dropped without parachutes, and withstand the impact with the snow-covered earth. There were no equipment kits dropped with the paratroops. The only supplies of this kind were carried by the individual paratrooper and are given in paragraph 9.

11.

25X1

12.

Horses are used to pull 45 millimeter and 76 millimeter cannon in combat and to transport food and supplies from division to regiment and from regiment to battalion.

- end -

25X1

25X1